

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 6/9/10, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Richard Turcotte, Laura Wiener;

Missing members: Jessica French, Jonathan Janik, Steve Kurland, John Lentz, Andy Machado, Corey Rateau, Ed Starr.

Visitors Present: Superintendent Kathleen Bodie.

1. Public Comments. None.
2. Administration.
 - Minutes of 5/12/10 were amended and approved unanimously.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
 - Howard reported that the Thorndike Parking Lot construction is scheduled to begin end of June, to be completed by September 1.
 - 1395 Mass. Ave. crosswalk thermoplastic should be removed from "Outstanding Actions" because it is now complete.
 - Ed should take care of Ethics Requirements for new members.
3. Nominating Committee Report. The following officers were nominated by the Nominating Committee, and elected unanimously:
 - a. Co-Chairs: Ed Starr and Jeff Maxtutis
 - b. Vice Chair: Howard Muise
 - c. Secretary: Laura Wiener
4. Countdown pedestrian timers at Mass. Ave. and Route 60. Mike reported that a contractor has been hired to put in countdown timers and parts are ordered. Changes should be imminent.
5. Mass Ave. and Park Ave. On hold until Gas Company work in the area is determined.
6. Eustis Street. Howard and Corey submitted a report in response to a request for traffic calming on this street. Their recommendation is that traffic calming is not warranted, based on low speeds and low volume of traffic. Report was adopted unanimously by TAC, and will now go to the Selectmen.
7. Stratton School Circulation. A revised plan and recommendation was submitted. Suggestion to add a "One Way" sign across from the horseshoe exit, and a "No Left Turn" sign at both exits. Voted unanimously.
8. Brighams Site. Working Group met to review Traffic Impact Study. The ARB hearing scheduled for June 14 will likely be continued until the ZBA renders a decision on variances.
9. Traffic Calming Guidelines. Howard presented draft recommendations for town-wide Traffic Calming Guidelines, to be applied to any requests for traffic calming. Scott suggested a flow chart be added to illustrate the process. Elisabeth suggested the document include a statement that funding for traffic calming is not guaranteed. Howard will revise for next meeting.
10. Traffic Supervisors. The Town Meeting Warrant Article to put the Traffic Supervisors on the Town budget was not approved. The "Bridge the Gap" campaign to raise funds may provide funding to add back a small number. Cost is about \$7000 per location for twice per day. Dr. Bodie mentioned the idea of using them mornings only. Dr. Bodie will ask Town Counsel about liability of using volunteers. TAC will make a recommendation in July for School Committee and Selectmen's meetings in August.
11. New Thompson School. Traffic counts currently underway to document baseline conditions.
12. Other Schools.
 - a. Dallin Safe Routes to Schools funded sidewalk installation is awaiting approval of Rights of Way.
13. Bicycle Safety. During Bike Week, Arlington was the top Town participant. The Town Manager has asked the working group on bicycle safety to put together recommendations of things that can be accomplished in the near term.

Recommendation was for signs reading “No bike riding on sidewalk” in appropriate locations, and Shared Lane markings in accordance with the 2009 MUTCD on Mass Ave between Swan Place and Water St. (westbound), and Pleasant Street to Swan Place (eastbound). Voted unanimously.

14. Clean Air and Mobility Program Grant (Rte. 60/Mass. Ave.). Arlington’s project made it past the first hurdle. The final vote will be in July. After it is approved by the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Town can look for a designer to begin the design process.
15. Mass. Ave. A public meeting, and a meeting of the Review Committee are planned to report on changes to the plan in response to Highway Division comments. The public meeting is scheduled for June 22.
16. East Arlington Parking. A Working Group is developing recommendation that will come to TAC before going to the Selectmen, probably during the summer.
17. Downing Square. Mike is considering using BSC for design, since they gathered all the data and laid out options. Elisabeth concurred that we might get more for our money using BSC than starting with a new consultant.
18. Bus Shelters. Laura reported that a public meeting has been scheduled for July 20 at Town Hall auditorium to look at proposed locations and have a presentation by MBTA.
19. Library Way. Mike will look at it and report back.
20. Town News.
 - a. Laura passed around a book on pedestrian planning from MAPC. There was some interest in developing a town-wide policy on pedestrian accommodations.
 - b. Mike reported that the reconstruction of Forest Street received federal stimulus funds, which will free up town funds for other projects, including Washington Street, Westminster sidewalk, paving Brattle Street and Mill Lane.
21. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

- Ed’s Meeting Package: 1) Agenda 6/9/10; 2) Memo from Marie Krepelka to Fred Ryan and Ed Starr Re. 4 Way Stop on Marathon Street, dated May 18, 2010; 3) Email from Colin Ferguson to Diane Mahon Re. Four-way stop on Marathon Street, dated May 5, 2010; 4) Memo from Marie Krepelka to John Bean Re. Bicycle Lanes on Park Avenue, dated May 17, 2010; 5) Memo to Board of Selectmen and Town Engineering Department from Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Re. Request for Bicycle Lanes on Park Avenue, dated March 8, 2010; 6) Letter to Congressman Edward Markey from Ed Starr Re. Green Line extension, proposed earmark, dated May 14, 2010; 7) Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 6/9/10; 8) Project Status, dated 6/9/10; 9) Status of Outstanding Actions, dated 6/9/10; 10) Draft Actions from 5/12 meeting; 11) Report of Nominating Committee—June 9, 2010 12) Traffic Circulation Around Stratton School Draft Report, June 9, 2010.
- Minutes of 5/12/10
- Town of Arlington Traffic Calming Policy, Draft Outline, June 9, 2010.
- Memo from Howard Muise and Corey Rateau to Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee, re. Request for Speed Bump on Eustis Street, dated June 9, 2010;
- Arlington Center signs and paint, dated Feb. 7, 2010